

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

(Claims 1, 7, 9-11, 21 and 24 have been amended, and claims 3-6, 12, 22, 23, 26 have been cancelled, and new claims 27-36 have been added.)

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for scheduling delivery of products allocating system capacity among a plurality of customers in a system, comprising:

receiving a piece of information regarding a customer;

displaying a plurality of available delivery windows to the customer based on the piece of information regarding the customer;

receiving from the customer a selection of a delivery window from the plurality of available delivery windows to fulfill an order for the customer; and

identifying a route from a plurality of routes to deliver the order based on the selected delivery window.

wherein the method further comprises

associating a customer point value with each of a plurality of customers according to a customer point system, the customer point values being determined with reference to based on information in customer order data;

dividing the plurality of customers into at least two a plurality of customer groups, each customer group corresponding to a range of customer point values, each customer being assigned to one of the plurality of customer groups according to the associated customer point value; and

determining an actual capacity allocation distribution among the plurality of customer groups based on with reference to information in the customer order data so as to adjust at least data; wherein the range of customer point values

associated with selected one customer group, ~~groups is adjusted to cause the actual capacity allocation distribution to converge to a target capacity allocation distribution wherein a delivery interface with a plurality of delivery windows is generated to allow a specific customer to select at least one of the windows for delivering an order to the specific customer, wherein the at least one of the windows available for the customer to select to be selected depends on the customer group to which the specific customer is assigned and the adjusted range of customer point values, and~~
wherein the method is implemented by a one or more computing devices.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of customer groups includes a new customer group corresponding to those of the plurality of customers associated with the system less than a predetermined period of time.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~claim 4~~ further comprising associating a customer group override with selected ones of the plurality of customers, and ~~allocating system capacity~~ allowing a delivery window to be available for the selected ones of the plurality of customers being done with reference to the customer group override.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein information in the customer order data for each customer comprise at least one of customer order size and customer order frequency.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the range of customer values associated with one customer group is adjusted to cause the actual capacity allocation distribution to converge to a target capacity allocation distribution ~~further comprising iterating division of the plurality of customers into the customer groups and determination of an actual capacity allocation distribution, wherein the customer point value ranges are adjusted accordingly to effect convergence of the actual capacity allocation distribution to the target capacity allocation distribution.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1 wherein the method is entirely automated~~ claim 9 further comprising adjusting the range of customer values associated with one customer group to cause the actual capacity allocation distribution to converge to the target capacity allocation distribution.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 + wherein the range of customer ~~point~~ values associated with selected customer groups is adjusted manually to cause the actual capacity allocation distribution to converge to ~~a~~ the target capacity allocation distribution.

12-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1,
wherein the plurality of delivery windows are transmitted to a remote platform via a wide area network for presentation to the ~~specific~~ customer, and
wherein the method further comprises determining which of the plurality of windows are available for delivery of the order with reference to currently available system resources.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the ~~specific~~ customer is associated with a group name and a customer group override, and wherein the at least one of the windows that the ~~specific~~ customer can select for delivery is determined based on which of the group name and the customer group override is dominant.

25. (Original) The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the customer group override is associated with an override expiration date, after which the group name dominates the customer group override.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the identifying of the route favors a route that already has at least one previously scheduled stop to fulfill another customer order over another route that does not have any previously scheduled stop.

28. (New) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising considering space on a transportation vehicle to deliver products to the customer based on the customer order in view of at least one other order to be serviced by the transportation vehicle for the identified route.

29. (New) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising determining if there is enough time to deliver the order without violating an existing promise to another customer on the identified route.

30. (New) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising providing an indication that a transportation vehicle will be in the customer's neighborhood.

31. (New) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising avoiding driving long distances to deliver just the order of the customer.

32. (New) The method as recited in claim 31 wherein to avoid such driving, the method further comprises determining the ratio of driving time to the available time to deliver the order for the identified route.

33. (New) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising displaying a window for the customer although the window should not be available to the customer group in which the customer is assigned, if the window is still available to another customer group after a certain predetermined period of time has elapsed.

34. (New) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising keeping track of the current state of all delivery windows.

35. (New) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising providing a message to the customer that the customer's status could be improved if the customer orders more than a certain dollar amount by a certain time.

36. (New) A computer-implemented method for scheduling delivery of products, comprising:

receiving a piece of information regarding a customer;

displaying a plurality of available delivery windows to the customer based on the piece of information regarding the customer;

receiving from the customer a selection of a delivery window from the plurality of available delivery windows to fulfill an order for the customer; and

identifying a route from a plurality of routes to deliver the order based on the selected delivery window,

wherein at least one of the windows available for the customer to select depends on assigning the customer to one of a plurality of customer groups, each customer group

corresponding to customers within a range of values, with at least one of the ranges of values determined based on customer order data, and

wherein the method is implemented by one or more computing devices.